



Dedication honors 'full measure of devotion'

By Col. Steven Corbett
Warrior Forge Commander

Welcome to Warrior Forge 2006! As we continue to improve our training and the leadership preparation of every cadet who comes here to Fort Lewis, we are also executing a vital and very special task this summer. We are renaming four of our training sites in honor of ROTC Graduates who, in the words of



Corbett

Abraham Lincoln, have "given the last full measure of devotion" in Iraq. The First Aid Assault Course is now the Capt. Sean Grimes First Aid Assault Course. The FLRC is the Capt. Kimberly Hampton Field Leader's Reaction Course; the Hand Grenade Assault Course is the Capt. Mike Tarlavsky Hand

Grenade Assault Course, and the ITT Assault Course has been renamed after 1st Lt. Nainoa Hoe.

Each of these brave Soldiers was a person. Each has his or her own story – along with unfinished dreams and endeavors which were cut short by dying in the service of our Nation. As cadets train at each of these sites, they will have the opportunity to learn

the legacies of these great Americans. I urge you all to take a few moments to give thanks for them, and to keep their families in your thoughts.

I have had the sad honor of officiating at these dedication ceremonies. I have looked into the eyes of the parents, spouses, friends and children who knew each of these Soldiers. I have held a young child in my arms, and held their mothers close as they wept upon my shoulder. I have seen pain and I have seen grief in their eyes. But above all, I have seen pride and gratitude. Those who grieve our fallen are proud that their son, daughter, husband, father or uncle achieved the dream of serving as an officer in America's Army. I have seen gratitude that we, America's Army, remember our fallen and are inspired by their example. We will not forget them, or the other Soldiers who have given their lives.

Looking into the eyes of these families is tough for me, one of the hardest things that I have ever had to do, but it makes me a better person. It makes me even more thankful that we have young Americans like Grimes, Hampton, Tarlavsky and Hoe, who are willing to serve, willing to lead, and willing to make the final sacrifice.

I am proud of every cadet who will come to Warrior Forge this summer. I am proud of the ROTC cadre, Reserve and active-duty soldiers, and the civilian employees who support, train, develop and evaluate our cadets. You have all come here to make a difference, and I am inspired by your service.

Let us learn for Sean Grimes, Kim Hampton, Mike Tarlavsky and Nainoa Hoe. Remember them, and do not let them down.

Train to Lead!

By Command Sergeant Major Victor Mercado
Western Region Command Sergeant Major

I want to welcome all the cadets and cadre to the best leadership training event in Cadet Command. All year long cadets and cadre across the command prepare physically and mentally to attack the challenges that Warrior Forge has to offer. I have personally witnessed that dedication and commitment of our Warrior Forge Team. The regiment cadre and committee cadre are in full steam ahead. We are not going to look back until the last Regiment graduates and the mission is completed.

I challenge every cadet and cadre to stay focused on the task on hand, and at the same time to balance work with physical recovery. Every day of training you are going to face a new mental and physical challenge. To be successful and overcome the challenges, you must work as a team and when in charge make the right decision based on the team's strengths and weaknesses.

Get to know each other better because you never know who you might have on your left and right in combat. Many of your battle buddy cadets are going to move on to different jobs in the Army. I can tell from my experiences that you will call on them for help or assistance during your military career. It's better to built relationship now than to try fix broken ones later. I still stay in touch with my classmates from the Sergeant Majors Academy Class No. 51.

Four Sergeants Major assigned to Warrior Forge will have the opportunity to share their insight and outlook in this newspaper. They have a many experiences – not just with Warrior Forge, but based on long military careers.

I want to wish you all good luck during Warrior Forge 2006 and in your military future. Remember always: "Everything we do is training, and training is everything we do."

To be a great leader you must always use troop leading procedures, the five-paragraph operation order, pre-combat checks/inspections, and a risk assessment. Do this on a day-to-day basis and you will have no problems – and more importantly, no human loss.



Mercado

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"The Army is and has always been a "people" organization. It is the perseverance, dedication and courage of men and women who have answered the Call to Duty that is key to achieving victory in the war on terrorism."

Army Secretary Francis J. Harvey,
at a Pentagon ceremony
June 14, 2006, marking
the Army's 231st birthday



Col. Steven R. Corbett

Commander

Western Region, U.S Army Cadet Command

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Public Affairs Officer: Bob Rosenburgh

Editor: Jeremy O'Bryan

Staff: Lt. Col. Charlie McGibony, 2nd Lt. Joy Crowder, 2nd Lt. Jeremy Gumeringer, Sgt. Joseph Siemandel, Mr. Al Zdarsky